

BASIC TEACHINGS OF ISLAM

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PREFACE

IN THE NAME OF ALLAH, MOST GRACIOUS, MOST MERCIFUL

This booklet has been prepared with the objective that it may be used to orally educate young boys and girls as well as educationally unprivileged adults in the society in matters of Islam. In its teachings of Islam have been presented in simple language covering all-important tenets of the Islamic faith. In addition, questions relating to deeds and morals have been dealt with in a way so as to attract readers towards virtues and engender in them a strong dislike for vices. *Shirk* (polytheism) and *bid'ah* (innovation) have been identified as abominable acts in such a careful way that no group of Muslims may find in it any point of disagreement.

It is hoped that young Muslim children and adults with a poor educational background will find this work beneficial for them. Answers to questions are very brief so that readers would remember them without any strenuous effort on their part to commit them to memory. They are arranged logically in such a way that the question leads to the answer, which in turn raise a new question. It is hoped that Muslims will use this work to teach fundamentals of Islam to such children who have not yet attained the ability to read and write and to such people in their neighborhood who did not get a chance of receiving proper education in life. All prophets were sent to convey the teachings of Islam to mankind and, therefore, every follower of Prophet Muhammad, who was the last prophet of Allah, should carry on this mission.

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PART 1
ALLAH

Q. Who created you?
A. Allah created us.

Q. Who created the skies and the earth?
A. Allah created them.

Q. Who produces the plants?
A. Allah produces them.

Q. Who sends the rain?
A. Allah.

Q. Who blows the winds?
A. Allah.

Q. Does it mean that Allah is the best creator?
A. Yes, Allah is the best creator.

Q. Can Allah create anything He wishes?
A. Yes, Allah can create everything.

Q. Can Allah do anything He likes?
A. Yes, Allah can do whatever He likes.

Q. Can Allah do everything alone?
A. Yes, Allah can do everything alone.

Q. Does He have any partner or helper?
A. No, He has no partner or helper.

Q. Does Allah not need anybody's help?
A. No, Allah is not dependent on anybody. In fact, all else is dependent on Him.

Q. How is it if anybody says that Allah has a partner?
A. It is very bad. This is called *Shirk* (associating partners with Allah). Allah becomes angry with it.

Q. Does Allah sometimes forgive *Shirk*?
A. Unless *Shirk* is given up, He will never forgive it.

Q. Who has enabled you to walk?
A. Allah has enabled me to walk.

Q. Does it mean that nothing happens without His order?
A. Yes, without His order even a leaf cannot move.

Q. Does Allah know all that happens in the world?
A. Yes, He knows everything.

Q. Does Allah hear our talk?
A. Yes, Allah hears everything.

Q. Does Allah see what we do?
A. Yes, He sees everything.

Q. Then we should not do anything that is displeasing to Him.
A. Yes, we should not do any such thing.

Q. What happens if Allah is displeased?
A. If He is displeased, He could do with us whatever He likes. None can Save us from His wrath.

Q. Who cures the sick?
A. Allah

Q. Can anyone else cure them?
A. No.

Q. Who puts a person to death?
A. Allah.

Q. Who produces different varieties of fruit for us?
A. Allah.

Q. If Allah decides to put a person to death, can anybody save him?
A. No.

Q. How is it if we call anyone else except Allah for help?
A. It is very bad. It is *Shirk*. Allah hates a *Mushrik* (one who associates partners with Allah) and never forgives him.

Q. Who provides you things to eat and drink?
A. Allah.

Q. Who protects you?
A. Allah protects all of us.

Q. Why does Allah protect you and give you nice things to eat?
A. Allah loves us more than our parents.

Q. Who sustains the universe?
A. Allah.

Q. Why has Allah made some persons rich and the others poor?
A. Allah makes people rich or poor as He decides (according to His wisdom).

Q. Have you seen Allah?
A. No, He cannot be perceived by human eyes.

Q. Why did Allah bring the world into being?
A. For us.

Q. Why did He bring us into being?
A. For worshipping Him.

Q. How is it if someone worships any other being except Allah?

A. It is very bad. He is called a *Mushrik*. Allah is extremely displeased with him.

Q. Does Allah ever forgive a *Mushrik*?

A. Unless he gives up *Shirk*, Allah would not forgive him.

PART II: PROPHET MUHAMMAD (peace be upon him)

Q. Do you know which deeds please Allah and which ones displease Him?

A. Yes.

Q. How did you come to know about it?

A. Allah informed us through His messenger.

Q. Through whom did He send the messages?

A. Through Prophet Muhammad (May Allah's blessings and peace be upon him).

Q. Who was Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him)?

A. He was the best among the slaves of Allah and His messenger.

Q. Did Allah ever before send messages to mankind?

A. Yes, even before Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) Allah had been continuously sending messages to mankind from time to time in order to guide them to the path of truth.

Q. What is a messenger called?

A. He is called a *Nabi* or *Rasool*.

Q. Who was the first *Nabi* (Messenger)?

A. Hazrat Adam (peace be upon him).

Q. Tell the names of some other Messengers (Ambiya)?

A. Hazrat Nooh, Hazrat Hood, Hazrat Ibrahim, Hazrat Musa, Hazrat Isa (May Allah's blessings and peace be on all of them).

Q. When did Allah send the Messengers (Ambiya)?

A. At times when human beings lost the right path and went astray.

Q. When was Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) sent?

A. He was sent about 1400 years ago.

Q. Was anyone sent after him as a Messenger?

A. None was sent after him nor shall anyone be sent in the future in that capacity.

Q. If anyone says now that he is a prophet sent by Allah, what would you say about him?

A. He is a liar, a cheater, and a deceitful person.

Q. To whom was Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) sent to guide them to the path of truth?

A. He was sent to the whole mankind for this purpose.

Q. Where was Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) born?

A. At Makkah, a city in Saudi Arabia.

Q. What was the condition of the world at that time?

A. People had lost the path of truth and gone astray.

Q. What did they do?

A. They forsook Allah, worshipped idols, sun, moon, stars, prophets and saints, sought their help at times of needs, made offerings to them for the fulfillment of their wishes and took vows in their names (*mannat*), as a lot of Muslims do today.

Q. How is it to do such things?

A. It is very bad, very bad indeed.

Q. What else did they do?

A. They stopped performing good deeds and practiced bad deeds instead.

Q. What did Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) do (as a messenger)?

A. He brought a guidebook from Allah and put it into practice to show its blessings to mankind so that people could follow it.

Q. What else did he do?

A. He conveyed and explained Allah's commandments contained in His guidebook to mankind and guided them to the right path.

Q. What is the name of that guidebook?

A. The Qur'an.

Q. Why was the Qur'an sent?

A. So that people understand it and follow the path shown in it.

Q. What do those people achieve who understand the Qur'an and follow its teachings?

A. Allah is pleased with them and loves them.

Q. What did the people of Makkah do when Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) conveyed the message of Allah to them?

A. Some good people at once believed in him, but the evil ones started opposing and teasing him.

Q. How did they tease him?

A. They never listened to what he said nor let others listen to him.

Q. What else did they do?

A. They tortured him very much and mentioned him with bad names.

Q. How did they torture him?

A. They threw stones at him, put thorns in his path, and threw garbage upon him.

Q. What did they do with his followers?

A. They tortured them even more.

Q. Was Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) very angry at this situation?

A. No, he was very gentle. He suffered patiently and never uttered a word of complaint.

Q. Why did he bear all afflictions patiently?

A. He was very merciful. He loved mankind dearly and earnestly desired that they be guided to the right path.

Q. Did he suffer so much pain for our well being?

A. Yes.

Q. Our parents be sacrificed for him. How excellent he was!

A. Yes, there is none nicer than him.

Q. What would have happened if he had not guided mankind to the right path?

A. We would have been living in ignorance.

Q. How much do you love him?

A. We love him more than our life, property and children.

Q. What great favours has he done to you?

A. He has done great favours to us. If he had not shown us the path of truth, Allah would have remained displeased with us.

Q. How can we repay him for his favours?

A. We are unable to repay him. May Allah duly reward him.

Q. Do you pray for him?

A. Yes, we pray for him. May Allah raise him in degree and bestow His love on him.

Q. Does he also pray for you?

A. Yes, he prays for us and at the time of Reckoning he will intercede for us by Allah's permission.

Q. Is it enough to please Allah that we follow what Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) did or instructed us to do?

A. Yes, it is quite enough.

Q. If some one recommends anything additional (to the teachings of the Prophet) and says that Allah will be more pleased at its performance, should we do it?

A. No, we should never do it.

Q. Why should we not do it?

A. If these deeds were pleasing to Allah, He would have made His Prophet and his companions practice them.

Q. Does it mean then that Allah is not pleased with any such act which was not practised by Prophet Muhammad and his Companions?

A. Yes, this is true.

Q. Why?

A. Allah informed Prophet Muhammad about all such deeds with which He is pleased and the Prophet informed us in full about it. He thus conveyed the complete message about Islam to us. There is, therefore, no shortcoming in religion that we should thus try to improve.

Q. If a person says that something new could be added to the religion of Islam, What would you say about him?

A. He is very bad. He suggests that the Prophet (peace be upon him) left his message incomplete.

PART 111: BELIEFS AND PRACTICES

Q. What religion did Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) bring from Allah?

A. The religion with which all other prophets had come to the world.

Q. What is its name?

A. Islam.

Q. What is Islam based upon?

A. Islam is based upon five fundamentals.

Q. What are they?

A. First, proclaiming that Allah is one and that Muhammad (peace be upon him) is His messenger (*Ashhadu Alla-ilaha illallah, wa ashhadu anna Muhammadar rasoolullah*); second, offering *Salat*; third, fasting (*Sawm*); fourth, paying *Zakah*; and fifth, performing *Hajj*.

Q. What is *Salat*?

A. The way of worship that Allah and His Prophet (peace be upon him) has taught to Muslims. Muslims worship Allah five times a day in that manner.

Q. What is fasting (*Sawm*) that Muslims observe in Ramadan?

A. To abstain from eating and drinking (from dawn to dusk) and from bad deeds is called fasting.

Q. What is *Zakat*?

A. Those who have surplus property are required to give the fortieth (1/40) part of it to the poor at the end of the year.

Q. What is *Hajj*?

A. Those who can afford are required to visit Makkah once in lifetime and worship Allah there.

Q. What are the things that a Muslim should abstain from?

A. A Muslim should abstain from killing a person without a just cause, devouring someone's property illegally, displeasing parents, giving interest, taking interest, drinking liquor, gambling, lying, backbiting, getting jealous, inciting a quarrel between two persons, and not distributing a dead person's property among his lawful heirs.

Q. How can we know the method of distributing the property of a dead person?

A. Everything is written down in the Qur'an. We should do it according to the instructions given there.

Q. How should Muslims behave with other human beings?

A. What to say of human beings, Muslims should not hurt even an animal without a just cause. They should have sympathy with all.

Q. How should Muslims behave with other Muslims?

A. They should treat other Muslims as their brothers and always try to work for their well-being.

Q. How should a Muslim behave with his neighbour?

A. He must try his best never to cause any harm to his neighbour. He should be friendly with him and must help him in the hour of need.

Q. How should a Muslim behave with those who are not his relatives?

A. He should always behave properly with them.

Q. If a Muslim's relative behaves improperly with him, what should he do?

A. He should remain patient and keep returning evil with good.

Q. If a Muslim sees another Muslim committing wrong, what should he do?

A. He should try to stop him from doing so.

PART IV: LIFE AFTER DEATH

Q. What does a person achieve by believing in and practicing the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him)?

A. Allah is pleased with him and grants him paradise after death.

Q. What is paradise?

A. It is a very nice place with beautiful mansions and gardens. It has various kinds of fruit and rivers flowing in it. There are good attendants there and such other pleasant things as none has seen or heard of in this world.

Q. Shall a Muslim also meet Allah in paradise?

A. Yes, Muslims will see Allah in paradise.

Q. This will be a great bliss to a Muslim.

A. Yes, this will be the greatest bliss to him.

Q. What shall happen to a person who does not believe in and practise the teachings of Prophet Muhammad?

A. Allah shall put such a person in hell.

Q. What is hell?

A. It is a bad place--a place of great suffering and pain. May Allah save us from it.

Q. What bad things does it contain?

A. In hell there is blazing fire and snakes, scorpions and pythons. The non-believers will be put into it for ever, sinners will remain there for a long time, and Allah will not let them die.

Q. Does a person go to paradise or hell immediately after death?

A. No.

Q. Then what happens?

A. After death he is again brought to life in the grave and Angels (who are called *Munkir* and *Nakeer*) question him

about his faith regarding religion, Prophet Muhammad, and Allah. If he was a person of correct faith and righteousness, a window to paradise is opened for him. But if he was a bad person in life, he is punished there.

Q. How does a person go to paradise or hell?

A. When sins and evils will increase on earth, the Angel Israfeel will blow the Trumpet (*Soor*) which will destroy the whole world and all creatures therein. He will then blow the Trumpet (*Soor*) the second time hearing which all creatures will come to life again, rise from their graves and gather at the place of judgment (*Maidan-e- Hashr*).

Q. What shall happen then?

A. At the place of judgment Allah will take an account of everyone's deeds done in life. If a person's good deeds outweigh his bad deeds, he will be granted paradise. But if his bad deeds outweigh his good deeds, he will be thrown into hell.

Q. What do we call the event in which everyone will be put to death, then raised to life again and questioned about his deeds?

A. It is called *Qiyamat* (Doomsday).

Q. Shall the Day of Judgment be very difficult?

A. Yes, it will be a day of hardships and difficulties. May Allah make it easy for all of us.

Q. Who is Israfeel (the blower of the Trumpet)?

A. An angel.

Q. What is an angel?

A. Angels are obedient servants of Allah created from light (*Noor*). They carry on duties for which Allah has created them.

Q. How many angels are there?

A. Countless.

Q. What do they do?

A. The Angel Jibreel brought the message of Allah to His prophets, the Angel Israfeel is appointed to blow the Trumpet on the Day of Judgement, the Angel Mikael is responsible for sustenance, and the Angel Izraeel is entrusted with the duty of taking out the souls at the time of death.

Q. What do the angels do besides these things?

A. The two angels (*Kiraman Katibeen*) are appointed to write down the good and evil deeds of human beings and the other two *Munkir* and *Nakeer* question the dead in the grave.

Q. Is there any creature of Allah that disobeys Him?

A. Yes, there is a creature of Allah which is extremely disobedient.

Q. Who is it?

A. The Satan (*Shaitan*).

Q. What does the Satan do?

A. The Satan is extremely disobedient and rebellious and tries his best all the time to see that others also become disobedient like him.

Q. How can a person protect himself from him?

A. Those who remember Allah will not be affected by Satan's seduction, but if they forget Allah, they fall into his plotting.

Q. Will Satan be also condemned to hell?

A. Yes.

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